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²_{24.} (New) A machine as set forth in claim ¹~~23~~ wherein said lead guide finger (9) has a front angled edge (3) and is angled upwardly from said front angled edge (3) for guiding pins away from said wheel while guiding balls into said concave recess (5).

³_{25.} (New) A machine as set forth in claim ²~~24~~ wherein said front angled edge (3) of said lead guide finger (9) is disposed between the sides of said concave recess (5) with said concave recess (5) having a leading edge (13) adjacent said front angled edge (3).

⁴_{26.} (New) A machine as set forth in claim ³~~25~~ including a concave leading edge (10) extending between said leading edge (13) of said recess (5) and said lead guide finger (9).

⁵_{27.} (New) A machine as set forth in claim ⁴~~26~~ wherein said recess (5) includes a top trailing edge (14) rounded for facilitating discharge of a said ball into said return rails (15).

⁶_{28.} (New) A machine as set forth in claim ⁵~~27~~ wherein said top trailing edge (14) leads into an angled top rear (4).

⁷_{29.} (New) A machine as set forth in claim ⁶~~28~~ including an impact cushion (16) disposed on said angled top rear (4).

⁸_{30.} (New) A machine as set forth in claim ²~~24~~ wherein said lead guide finger (9) has a radius (11) for cradling a ball against said back ball lift rod (12).

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⁹~~31.~~ (New) A retriever device for guiding a bowling ball against a ball return rails when disposed on a ball return wheel, said device comprising;

a retriever device (1) including a base presenting a concave recess (5) for engaging a ball and moving the ball,

said retriever device including a lead guide finger (9) disposed forwardly of said recess (5) for separating pins while retaining balls.

¹⁰~~32.~~ (New) A machine as set forth in claim ⁹~~31~~ wherein said lead guide finger (9) has a front angled edge (3) and is angled upwardly from said first angled edge (3) for guiding pins away while guiding balls into said concave recess (5).

¹¹~~33.~~ (New) A machine as set forth in claim ¹⁰~~32~~ wherein said front angled edge (3) of said lead guide finger (9) is disposed between the sides of said concave recess (5) with said concave recess (5) having a leading edge (13) adjacent said front angled edge (3).

¹²~~34.~~ (New) A machine as set forth in claim ¹¹~~33~~ including a concave leading edge (10) extending between said leading edge (13) of said recess (5) and said lead guide finger (9).

¹³~~35.~~ (New) A machine as set forth in claim ¹²~~34~~ wherein said recess (5) includes a top trailing edge (14) rounded for facilitating discharge of a said ball.

¹⁴~~36.~~ (New) A machine as set forth in claim ¹³~~35~~ wherein said top trailing edge (14) leads into an angled top rear (4).

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15
37.

(New)

14
A machine as set forth in claim ~~36~~ including an impact cushion

(16) disposed on said angled top rear (4).

A1

16
38.

10
(New) A machine as set forth in claim ~~32~~ wherein said lead guide finger (9) has

a radius (11) for cradling a ball.

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